

# **Apply the Principles of War During Mission Planning**

# ***Terminal Learning Objective***

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**Action:** Apply knowledge of the principles of war to mission planning.

**Conditions:** Given the student handouts and personal notes taken during the lesson.

**Standard:** \* Lists the nine principles of war.

the nine \* Selects the correct definitions of each of principles.

commanders \* Identifies historical examples of how applied the principles of war to their mission planning.

# ***The Principles of War***

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*“The nine principles of war provide general guidance for the conduct of war....They are the enduring bedrock of Army doctrine.”*

FM 100-5, June 1993



# ***The Principles of War***

## **BACKGROUN**

- Sun Tzu, Miltiades, Antoin**D**e Henri Jomini
  - » Exploring early principles in theory and practice
- J.F.C. Fuller
  - » First detailed enumeration of principles of war in 1916
- Nine American principles of war
  - » First published and outlined in 1921 Training Regulations No. 10-5
  - » First clarified in 1923 Infantry Journal articles
  - » First officially defined in 1949 FM 100-5
  - » Remain in FM 100-5 and FM 100-1
  - » Continuing foundation of Army doctrine

# ***The Principles of War***

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**1. OBJECTIVE**

**2. OFFENSIVE**

**3. MASS**

**4. ECONOMY OF FORCE**

**5. MANEUVER**

**6. UNITY OF COMMAND**

**7. SECURITY**

**8. SURPRISE**

**9.**

**SIMPLICITY**

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## ● **OBJECTIVE:**

*Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable goal.*

### **Objective summarized:**

- ⇒ Destroy enemy armed forces
- ⇒ Destroy enemy will to fight
- ⇒ Attain intermediate objectives:
  - ⇒ Seize key terrain, LOCs, etc.

### **Historical example:**

- ⇒ Union MG Hooker's "plan of campaign"



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## ● **OFFENSIVE:**

*Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative.*

### **Offensive summarized:**

- ➔ Seize and hold initiative
- ➔ Retain freedom of action
- ➔ Achieve decisive results
- ➔ Adopt defensive temporarily
  - ➔ Use offensive-defensive

### **Historical example:**

- ➔ Confederate GEN Lee's adoption of the offensive

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- **MASS:**

*Mass the effects of overwhelming combat power at the decisive place and time.*

## **Mass summarized:**

- Synchronize combat power
- Strike with a closed fist
- Mass effects vice just forces

## **Historical example:**

- Union MG Hooker's turning movement



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## **● ECONOMY OF FORCE:**

*Employ all combat power available in the most effective way possible; allocate minimum essential combat power to secondary efforts.*

### **Economy of force summarized:**

- Give all forces a purpose
- Act in concert
- Use delays, defense, etc.

### **Historical example:**

- Confederate MG Early's delaying action

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- **MANEUVER:**

*Place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power.*

## **Maneuver summarized:**

- Gain positional advantage
- Designate and shift main effort
- Reject predictable patterns

## **Historical example:**

- Union MG Hooker's turning movement

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## **• UNITY OF COMMAND:**

*For every objective, seek unity of command and unity of effort.*

### **Unity of command summarized:**

- ⇒ Designate one responsible commander
- ⇒ Ensure unity of effort
  - ⇒ Designate one common objective

### **Historical example:**

- ⇒ Union MG Hooker's reorganization of the AOP



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## ● **SECURITY:**

*Never permit the enemy to acquire unexpected advantage.*

### **Security summarized:**

- ➔ Protect the force
- ➔ Know the enemy's habits
- ➔ Take necessary, calculated risks

### **Historical example:**

- ➔ Union MG Hooker's intelligence/counterintelligence reorganization

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## ● **SURPRISE:**

*Strike the enemy at a time or place or in a manner for which he is unprepared.*

### **Surprise summarized:**

- Employ speed, deception, OPSEC, etc.
- Use timing, temp, etc.
- Seek even partial surprise

### **Historical example:**

- Confederate LTG Jackson's flank march

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- **SIMPLICITY:**

*Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.*

## **Simplicity summarized:**

- ⇒ Use simple plans
- ⇒ Use clear, concise orders
- ⇒ Recognize that simple is often difficult

## **Historical example:**

- ⇒ Confederate LTG Jackson's plan for enveloping Union right



# ***The Principles of War***

## **→ LIMITATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR:**

- Not prescription, formula, recipe, or checklist!*
- May be followed or violated and either win or lose!*
- Guidelines only!*

## **Historical examples:**

- Union MG Hooker followed five principles and lost.
- Conf. GEN Lee violated mass repeatedly and won.

# *The Principles of War*

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## → **PRODUCING AN OPERATIONS ORDER:**

### **HISTORICAL EXAMPLE:**

→ Union LTG Grant's April 1864 letter/order to MG Sherman

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## **CHECK ON LEARNING**

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